"Civil War Historic Sites" – WV Tourism

<<This section is from a WV Division of Tourism website that has been deactivated.>>

1. **Belle Boyd House** Martinsburg

Famous civil War Spy, Belle Boyd, spent part of her childhood in this house built in 1853. During the war, she supplied information to Stonewall Jackson about enemy activities and was imprisoned twice before being banished to England.

2. **Bulltown Historic District** Burnsville

In 1863, Confederate forces led by William L. "Mudwall" Jackson, cousin of "Stonewall" Jackson, attempted to overtake Union fortifications on a knoll overlooking a key bridge that once crossed the Little Kanawha River along the Weston-Gauley Bridge Turnpike. At the hilly site are Union trenches, the graves of seven Confederate soldiers and intact sections of the Weston-Gauley Turnpike. The district also features the restored Cunningham farm that reflects the period living conditions of the area. The Bultown Historic Center, complete with costumed staff, features artifacts from the battle.

3. **Burning Springs Park** Elizabeth

Money. Power. Politics. War. Prosperity. A self-guided tour presents the captivating stories of the nation's first oil and gas field. See the world's oldest producing oil well and learn the role it played in West Virginia statehood and the Civil War.

4. **Camp Allegheny 1861-1862** Bartow

This haunting, windswept encampment was successfully defended on December 13, 1861, when Confederate Gen. Edward Johnson's troops repelled an attack by Union forces. However, the loss of men contributed to the decision to abandon it in April 1862. Earthworks, gun positions and chimney falls from the encampment are evident. Location: From U.S.250 near the Virginia/WV state line, turn south at sign on County Rd. 3, turn right at the T junction, then go 2 more miles (Road may be closed due to snow in winter.) Open: year-round, dawn to dusk. NR & CWDT, Disabled Access parking & interpretive area, Brochure Available.

5. **Cannon Hill – Rowlesburg** Rowlesburg

Cannon Hill in Rowlesburg rises above Cheat River on the north side of town. It is a historic site for it's strategic location during the Civil War Battle of Rowlesburg in April of 1863. The Confederate Army, under the leadership of General William "Grumble" Jones, was intent on destroying the B&O Railroad bridge to cut the

Union supply line. Alerted that the rebels were on their way across Lantz Ridge to attack from the east, townsfolk and Union troops barricaded themselves along the railroad track; Peter Wotring hauled an oxcart loaded with a cannon up the steep hillside and positioned it atop Cannon Hill with a clear view of the railroad bridge; when the rebels were in sight, volleys of rifle and cannon fire met them and repulsed them back into the hills. Thus, the railroad bridge was saved from destruction and "Lincoln's Lifeline" was preserved. Trips to Cannon Hill are available May through October by contacting members of the Rowlesburg Area Historical Society: Robert Ayersman at 304 454-9303 or Lucille Grimm at 304 454-9218.

6. **Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park** Summersville

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park is located on the rim of the Gauley River Canyon only minutes from Summersville Lake. This is the site of the Sept. 10, 1861 battle in which confederates failed to regain control of the Kanawha Valley. West Virginia's statehood proceeded without serious threat as a result. This official Civil War Discovery Trail site offers picnicking, four reservable shelters, hiking trails, three overlooks of the Gauley River, softball field, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and the Patterson House Museum. Reservations can be made by contacting the Superintendent at (304) 872-0825 or carnifexferry@wvdnr.gov.

7. **Cheat Summit Fort**   Elkins

General George B. McClellan ordered this fort to be built in 1861 to secure the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike and protect the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The Confederacy's inability to take the fort in September, 1861, was central in the failure of Robert E. Lee's western Virginia Campaign. In the October battle of Greenbrier River, troops from Cheat Summit Fort, under General R. H. Milroy, attacked Camp Bartow. Neither side could claim victory and the Union troops returned to Cheat Summit Fort while the Confederates withdrew to Camp Allegheny. In December of the same year, soldiers from Cheat Summit Fort attacked Camp Allegheny, but were driven back. The site is also significant for, perhaps, the earliest use of telegraph technology in the Civil War. The unique earthworks of this encampment remain.

8. **Craik-Patton House Museum**   Charleston

Craik-Patton House, a Greek Revival style home built in 1834 by James Craik, whose grandfather was George Washington's friend and personal physician. Colonel George Patton, grandfather of the famous WWII General, later owned the house. Authentically restored and furnished to reflect early 19th century living. Meeting/conference/dining facility accommodating 50 available for rent. Formal garden. Free parking.

9. **Robert B. McNutt House**   Princeton

Dr. Robert McNutt House is located at 1522 North Walker Street, Princeton, WV. It is the only house left standing in Princeton after the town was burned during the Civil War. The House is on the National Register of Historic Places. The McNutt House was used as headquarters during the war for Lt. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes and Sgt. William McKinley (both past U. S. Presidents). The McNutt House was also used as a hospital during May 1862. Located along the West Virginia Civil War Trail. Hours: Monday-Friday 9-4. No admission charge. Visitors welcome.

10. **Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park**   Hillsboro

A peaceful park with a panoramic view now marks the spot where one of West Virginia's largest and last important battles was fought on November 6, 1863. The decisive victory of Union forces under General William W. Averell over the Confederate army under General John Echols ended serious efforts by the Confederacy to control West Virginia.

11. **Fayetteville Historic District**   Fayetteville

The Indirect Artillery Firing method, later used around the world, was first used by Confederate Sergeant Milton W. Humphreys on May 19–20, 1863. During the Civil War, both Union and the Confederates came along the old Giles, Fayette and Kanawha Turnpike to attack Fayetteville. A cemetery for the Confederate dead is located at the Fleshman's Farm.

12. **Fort Boreman Historical Park**   Parkersburg

Located just two miles from downtown Parkersburg, the park features a reconstructed Union Civil War fortification, trenches, interpretive signage, picnic shelters, nature trail and spectacular views of Parkersburg and the Ohio and Little Kanawha Rivers.

13. **Fort Mill Ridge**   Romney

This well-preserved earthen fortification was built between March and June 1863. Builders of the fort included the 54th Pennsylvania Infantry and the 1st West Virginia Infantry. The site had previously been used by Confederate artillery to defend approaches to Romney. When Colonel Jacob M. Campbell (54th PVI) garrisoned Union forces at Romney, camps were set up at Mechanicsburg Gap. This site was more easily defended by the fort commanding the Northwestern Turnpike, which became Rt. 50.

14. **Fort Mill Ridge Civil War Trenches and Museum**   Romney

Fort Mill Ridge Civil War trenches, trails and interpretive signage. In the museum, there are accessible restrooms and an accessible theater/auditorium.

15. **Fort Mulligan**   Petersburg

The valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River was a middle ground, situated between the all-important middle Shenandoah Valley and the Upper Potomac region with its vital coal resources and the B&O Railroad infrastructure centered around Cumberland, Maryland. Federal or Confederate troops occupied this hill and its surrounding area beginning at least as early as August 1861, and were on the ground for at least part of every year of the war. Federal forces time and again tried to use this strategic point as a choke hold against raids on the B&O to the north, and as a jumping-off point for their own raids further south. The Fort as it exists today was constructed August–December 1863, by troops under the command of Colonel James A. Mulligan from Chicago, IL. Infantry, cavalry and artillery from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Illinois carried out the labor.

16. **General McClellan's Headquarters**   Grafton

Birthplace of the founder of Mother's Day, this house was used was used as a field headquarters by Union commanders in the summer of 1861. Situated on the Wheeling-Staunton Pike, which provided access to the strategic Northwestern Virginia Railroad here, this was a strategic supply depot throughout the war.

17. **Grafton National Cemetery**   Grafton

This cemetery was established in 1867 by congressional legislation to offer a final resting place for the men who died during the Civil War. The remains of Union soldiers were removed from temporary graves in West Virginia as well as several Union dead from Kentucky. Of the 1,215 graves, 664 are unknown and some are Confederate soldiers. Notably the grave of Private T. Bailey Brown, the first Union soldier to be killed by a Confederate, is located here.

18. **Harpers Ferry**   Harpers Ferry

In 1859, John Brown and his followers marched from the Kennedy Farm in Maryland to the town of Harpers Ferry. Their goal was to seize weapons from the United States Federal Arsenal for an armed uprising against slavery. Overnight, the picturesque community at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers was thrust into the turbulent center of national events of the day – and made an enduring mark on American history.

19. **Jefferson County Courthouse**   Charles Town

Built on land donated by George Washington's youngest brother Charles, this 1836 Greek Revival brick building was the site for the famous trial of John Brown in 1859. During the Civil War it served as a barracks for Union troops.

20. **Jefferson County Museum**   Charles Town

Collection includes the Civil War and John Brown's Raid, china, textiles, toys, photos and documents.

21. **John Brown Wax Museum**   Harpers Ferry

This unique museum details John Brown's hatred of slavery, traces his violent exploits and depicts scenes from his daring raid on Harpers Ferry. Wax figure museum open mid-March through mid-December.

22. **Laurel Hill Civil War Battleground**   Belington

Site of the longest battle in the Tygart Valley Campaign. Union forces ousted the Confederate army and protected important turnpikes, securing safe passage to Wheeling for the founding fathers to plan the statehood of WV. In fleeing to Beverly, Confederate General Garnett was the first general to die in the Civil War. Annual battle reenactment is staged during the third weekend in July. The Battlefield is open to the public year-round and walking trails are marked with interpretive signage.

23. **Lewisburg Historic District**   Lewisburg

Dating from the 18th Century, this quaint town was the site of a Civil War battle on May 23, 1862, when Union forces attempted to sever railroad communications between Virginia and Tennessee. There is a Confederate cemetery in town, a library that was used as a hospital with Confederate graffiti on the walls, a church with a cannonball hole and a monument to the Confederate dead. The North House Museum also offers Civil War enthusiasts artifacts and documents from that era, including a packsaddle used to break Robert E. Lee's famous horse, Traveler.

24. **Organ Cave**   Organ Cave

A National Historic Landmark and a National Natural Landmark, on the Civil War Trail. The 2nd longest commercial cave on the east coast with over 200 paths yet to be mapped, with 16 different tours with 3 walking tours and 13 extended expeditions using helmets and light, from a 2 hour version to a 18 hour trip. All tours are guided and are based on creation.
This is **the largest Civil War site in the USA for the making of gunpowder for the confederate army** under General Robert E Lee. This is **also where the first grizzly bear, saber tooth cat and others were found east of the Mississippi, and the home of the first prehistoric, ice age, 3 toed sloth found in America.**
Campground with water and electric, plus port-a-johns and hook ups for 34 RVs; an arena for the penning of horses for those traveling with horses with transport of the horses to and from the Greenbrier River Trail, which is 5 miles from the campground. Open year round; all tours from November to April are by reservation only. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Sundays.

25. **Philippi Covered Bridge & Historic District**   Philippi

The city of Philippi was the site of the first land battle of the Civil War on June 3, 1861. It also was the site of the first amputation of the war, performed on James Hanger. Built in 1852, the bridge was heavily utilized by both armies during the Civil War. During the battle, Union troops took control of the bridge and used it as a barracks. Severely damaged by fire in 1989, the bridge has been restored to its original appearance. It is one of the few such covered bridges still in use as a part of the federal highway system.

26. **Rich Mountain Battlefield & Beverly Historic District**   Beverly

Site of the July 1861 Civil War battle for control of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. This early union victory catapulted Gen. George McClellan to leadership of the union army and gave the north control of western Virginia, leading it to eventual statehood. This site, five miles west of the town of Beverly, WV, features interpretive signs, walking/hiking tours and picnic area. The Beverly Heritage Center (located on Main St., Beverly) serves as the interpretive center for the site with "The 1st Campaign of the Civil War" exhibit and research facilities. Group and guided tours by appointment. Battlefield open year round dawn to dusk. Visitor Center open daily in season and weekdays through the winter.

Union troops led by General William S. Rosecrans flanked the Confederate Camp Garnett entrenchments guarding the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike at the base of Rich Mountain.   On July 11, 1861, following a difficult and roundabout march up the mountain, Rosecrans' forces surprised and routed the outnumbered confederate outpost at the pass, thus taking control of the turnpike. Colonel Pengram, in command at Camp Garnett, retreated following the battle, surrendering to the Federals in Beverly two days later. General George B. McClellan, the Federal Commander, claimed brilliant victory for this action, and his resulting fame led to his command of all Union forces within a few months. Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site consists of more than 400 protected acres, including the battle site at the top of Rich Mountain (5 miles west of Beverly), the Confederate Camp Garnett (1.5 miles further west), and a section of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike (the Rich Mountain Backway) connecting the two sites. See the battlefield with veteran's rock carvings and original earthworks at Camp Garnett. Both sites have interpretive signs and trails.

Following the Federal success at Rich Mountain, Gen. McClellan led his troops into Beverly, securing this vital crossroads for the union. The town remained a Federal stronghold throughout the war, except for four Confederate raids, including Imboden's Raid in 1863. Rich Mountain visitor Center in the McClellan's headquarters building has exhibits and information for Rich mountain, Beverly, and Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike Byway, restrooms and gift shop. While in town enjoy the walking tour, Randolph County Museum, and Lemeul Chenoweth House.
Location: Battlefield 5 miles west of Beverly on Rich Mountain Rd. visitor Center on Files Creek Rd., one block off U.S. Rt. 215/250.

27. **Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site & Visitor Center**   Beverly

Site of the July 1861 Civil War battle for control of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. This early union victory catapulted Gen. George McClellan to leadership of the union army and gave the north control of western Virginia leading it to eventual statehood. This site, five miles west of the town of Beverly, WV, features interpretive signs, walking/hiking tours and picnic area. The Beverly Heritage Center (located on Main St., Beverly) serves as the interpretive center for the site with "The 1st Campaign of the Civil War" exhibit and research facilities. Group and guided tours by appointment. Battlefield open year round dawn to dusk. Visitor Center open daily in season and weekdays through the winter. 304-637-7424 or www.richmountain.org.

28. **Shepherdstown Historic District**   Shepherdstown

Established in the 1730s as Mecklenberg, Shepherdstown is the oldest town in West Virginia. In the wake of the Battle of Antietam, only five miles away, the town became a vast hospital for Robert E. Lee's retreating Confederate Army. On September 20, 1862, the last significant battle of the Maryland Campaign occurred at Boteler's Ford, about a mile down the Potomac River from the town.

29. **Stonewall Jackson Birthplace**   Clarksburg

The Stonewall Jackson Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, has placed a bronze plaque at 326-328 West Main St in Clarksburg to mark the birthplace of the Civil War general. A statue of Jackson at the courthouse plaza honors its famous son. Location: Various sites, Clarksburg. Address: Greater Clarksburg CVB, 208 Court St., Clarksburg, WV, 26301. Telephone: 304-622-2157.

30. **Trans Allegheny Lunatic Asylum (formerly Weston State Hospital)**   Weston

Daytime historic tours including museum rooms, night time paranormal tours, overnight ghost hunts, photo tours, festivals flashlight tours and a haunted house are offered. Open from March until November for daytime tours on Tuesday through Sunday and major holiday Mondays. Year round for the paranormal tours and hunts. Festivals and photo tours are several times a year. The haunted house and flashlight tours are open from the end of September until the beginning of November, Thursday through Sunday evenings.

31. **West Virginia Independence Hall Museum**   Wheeling

West Virginia Independence Hall, a National Historic Landmark and the birthplace of West Virginia, is located in Wheeling, West Virginia. Originally built as a federal custom house in 1859, it is considered the birthplace of West Virginia because it was the site of a series of events leading up to the state's creation. The building has been lovingly restored with period rooms and exhibitions which interpret the historic and architectural significance of the site.

32. **WVU Jackson's Mill Historic Area & Lodge**   Weston

Site of the boyhood home of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. The Old Mill, the last of the original buildings, features a museum of artifacts relating to 19th century WV homesteads. Other period structures include an operational 1794 water-powered gristmill, a weaving shop, blacksmith shop, a 1793 cabin, and a gift shop & heritage center. Special programs are available; bus tours are welcome with advance arrangement. Visit the web for special events.

"Civil War Cemeteries"

Berkeley County – Green Hill Cemetery, 485 East Burke St., Martinsburg. Covering all sides of a cone-shaped hill, the 1854 cemetery is laid out in circles taken from a French design. Among the graves are 30

unknown Confederate soldiers, as well as Captain E.G. Alburits, who commanded the Berkeley Company at Harpers Ferry during the John Brown raid.

Greenbrier County – Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, (near Hilltop Tennis Courts). A simple marker indicates the burial of 16 unknown Confederate soldiers who died of wounds received at the Battle of Dry Creek, August 26-27, 1863.

 – Blue Sulphur Springs, C.R. 25, three miles south of Smoot off I-64. A state historical marker and simple headstone identify the final resting place of 89 unknown Georgian soldiers who died while encamped near here during the winter of 1862-1863.

 – Confederate Cemetery, Lewisburg. The cemetery features a mass grave of 95 unknown Confederate soldiers who died during the Battle of Lewisburg on May 23, 1862. The graves were laid out in a cross design on a hilltop on the edge of town. There also are graves of three known Confederate States of America veterans interred after the war.

 – Old Stone Presbyterian Church, 200 Church St., Lewisburg. Following the Battle of Lewisburg, May 23, 1862, the Old Stone Presbyterian Church was used as a hospital. Several Civil War veterans are buried in the church cemetery.

Hardy County – Olivet Cemetery, Moorefield. Formally set aside as a cemetery in 1851, the shelling of Moorefield took place from this hillside in 1863. A section of the cemetery is noted on a map as "Confederate dead," and features a large monument, which was erected by the Memorial Association in 1873. The obelisk has plaques on each of the four sides recognizing the McNeill Rangers, Hardy Blues and Grays and the 18th and 7th Virginia Cavalries. The monument stands in the center of a double ring of gravestones.

Harrison County – Jackson Cemetery, Clarksburg, East Pike St., between Cherry St. and Charleston Ave. The family plot is the final resting place of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's great-grandparents, father and sister.

Jefferson County – Elmwood Cemetery, Shepherdstown. The Elmwood Cemetery includes the graves of several Confederate veterans including Henry Kyd Douglas, staff officer to General "Stonewall" Jackson, and General William W. Kirkland (Confederate States of America).

 – Zion Episcopal Church and Cemetery, East Congress St., Charles Town. Several prominent local Confederates are buried here including General Robert E. Lee's cartographer, S. Howell Brown.

Kanawha County – **Spring Hill Cemetery**, Charleston. Offering commanding views of the city, this cemetery includes a section with several Confederate soldiers' graves.

– **Virginia's Chapel and Slave Cemetery**, U.S. Rt. 60, Cedar Grove. This quaint chapel served as a Confederate hospital and Union stable during the war. A slave cemetery is located behind the church.

Randolph County – **Mount Iser Cemetery**, near Beverly (Butcher Hill Historic District). At least 62 Confederate soldiers and one civilian, many of them killed at the Battle of Rich Mountain, are buried in this small cemetery surrounded by Union fortifications.

Taylor County – **Grafton National Cemetery**, 431 Walnut St. This cemetery was established in 1867 by congressional legislation to offer a final resting place for the men who died during the Civil War. The remains of Union soldiers were removed from temporary graves in West Virginia as well as several Union dead from Kentucky. Of the 1,215 graves, 664 are unknown and some are Confederate soldiers. Notably the grave of Private T. Bailey Brown, the first Union soldier to be killed by a Confederate, is located here.